

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05536 270925Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1913

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, KS

SUBJECT: JUNE 26 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: SEOUL 5042

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE HEAVY POLICE PRESENCE,
STUDENTS ASSEMBLED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN DOWNTOWN SEOUL
KWANGHWANUN INTERSECTION AND CARRIED ON SHORT ANTI-GOVERNMENT
DEMONSTRATION EVENING OF JUNE 26. SOURCES REPORT AS MANY AS 40
STUDENTS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. BUT ARRESTS IF ANY NOT KNOWN AT
THIS POINT.

2. DURING JUNE 12 SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATION,
STUDENTS CALLED FOR MASS MEETING OF STUDENTS ON JUNE 26,
6 PM AT KWANGHWANUN INTERSECTION. THUS, POLICE WERE WELL
AWARE OF POSSIBILITY AND BY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 26 HAD
STATIONED HUNDREDS OF POLICE (UNIFORMED, PLAIN CLOTHES
AND RIOT POLICE) IN KWANGHWANUN VICINITY. POLICE WERE
SEEN CHECKING BRIEF CASES OF MANY STUDENTS IN THE VICINITY.
DESPITE THIS PRESENCE, ACCORDING TO TWO SOURCES, AS
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MANY AS 1,000 STUDENTS CAME TO THE AREA AND FOR SHORT
PERIODS ASSEMBLED IN GROUPS OF 2-300. STUDENTS REPORTEDLY
CALLED FOR ELIMINATION OF YUSIN SYSTEM AND
ATTEMPTED TO SING PROTEST SONGS. SOURCES REPORT
SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PHYSICALLY CLASHED WITH POLICE
WHO ATTEMPTED TO DISPERSE CROWDS.

3. ACCORDING TO TWO DIFFERENT SOURCES, AS MANY AS 40 STUDENTS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY; ARRESTS, IF ANY, ARE NOT KNOWN AT THIS POINT. IN ADDITION, FIVE MINISTERS WERE REPORTEDLY DETAINED BY POLICE.

4. JUNE 26 DEMONSTRATION, ALTHOUGH DISPERSED IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT MARKS FIRST OFF-CAMPUS, PUBLIC ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION IN SIX YEARS. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS NOT ONLY MANAGED TO ASSEMBLE IN LARGE NUMBERS IN DOWNTOWN SEOUL, BUT DID SO IN SPITE OF POLICE FORE-KNOWLEDGE AND PREPARATION.

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Message Attributes

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